

Message Text

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UNCLAS OTTAWA 1773

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CA

SUBJ: CANADIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF HOUSE WEDNESDAY GROUP REPORT

REF: A) STATE 107421; B) OTTAWA'S 1743

1. SUMMARY: CANADIAN MEDIA REPORTING OF WEDNESDAY GROUP STUDY HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY LIGHT AND WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT. MOST HAS BEEN IN CONTEXT OF MINEXTAFF MACEACHEN'S REJECTION OF CONCLUSION THAT US-CANADIAN RELATIONS DETERIORATING.

END SUMMARY.

2. MEDIA COVERAGE OF SUBJECT REPORT HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY LIGHT. IN FACT, NEARLY ALL OF WHAT WE HAVE SEEN HAS BEEN BASED ON MINEXTAFF MACEACHEN'S PRESS CONFERENCE REBUTTAL OF REPORT'S CONCLUSION THAT US-CANADIAN RELATIONS ARE DETERIORATING (REF B). MAY 1 GLOBE AND MAIL STORY CARRIED HEADLINE "PROBLEMS EXIST BUT OTTAWA-WASHINGTON RELATIONS SOUND: MACEACHEN." STORY INCLUDED FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF WEDNESDAY GROUP REPORT AND MACEACHEN REBUTTAL BUT AS ONLY PART OF MORE GENERAL STORY ON VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES COVERED BY MACEACHEN AT PRESS CONFERENCE. SINILARLY, TWO-COLUMN ARTICLE GEOFFREY STEVENS IN GLOBE REPORT SEGMENT OF MACEACHEN PRESS CONFERENCE IN ONLY ONE SENTENCE.

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CTV AND CBC TELEVISION NEWS EVENING APRIL 30 AND CBC

RADIO MADE REFERENCE TO THE CONGRESSIONAL REPORT BUT WITHOUT COMMENT.

3. MAY 1 OTTAWA JOURNAL HAD SHORT ARTICLE REPORTING ALLEGED REACTIONS BY US TRADE NEGOTIATORS TO THE REPORT. ARTICLE NOTED THAT "INTERVIEWS WITH TOP US TRADE NEGOTIATORS SHOWED THEY SHARE MANY OF THE GROUP'S VIEWS. THEY EXPRESS SURPRISINGLY GRAVE ALARM AT WHAT THEY SEE AS THE UNTRAMMELLED RISE OF NATIONALISTIC PRESSURES IN CANADA." ARTICLE DID NOT GIVE NAMES OF US TRADE NEGOTIATORS BUT REPORTED ONE AS SAYING "WE UNDERSTAND WHY CANADA WANTS TO DIVERSIFY ITS TRADE AND DIPLOMATIC LINKS. BUT WHEN WE FIND OTTAWA TAKING POSITIONS IN OPPOSITION TO US SIMPLY TO IMPROVE ITS IMAGE WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE THIRD WORLD (DEVELOPING COUNTRIES) IT GETS DAMN FRUSTRATING."

4. WE HAVE SEEN NO MEDIA EDITORIAL COMMENT AS YET.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE APPARENT LACK OF MEDIA ATTENTION TO REPORT, MATTER WAS RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR BY SEVERAL CANADIAN MPS IN COURSE OF GENERAL DISCUSSIONS IN AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE MAY 3. MP'S DAVID MACDONALD AND ED LUMLEY, WHO HAD ATTENDED LAST WINTER'S INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETING AT KEY BISCAYNE, EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT CONCLUSIONS OF WEDNESDAY GROUP. THEY NOTED THAT SEVERAL WEDNESDAY GROUP MEMBERS HAD BEEN ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN KEY BISCAYNE DISCUSSIONS AND HAD NOT THEN EXPRESSED VIEW THAT US-CANADIAN RELATIONS WERE DETERIORATING.
ENDERS

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